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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

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Johannes Hendrik HIDDING, Otto HALMINGH

Application No.: U.S. National Stage of PCT/NL00/00141

Filed: September 5, 2001

Docket No.: 110510

For: SOLID PHASE EXTRACTION INSTRUMENT AND METHOD FOR SOLID PHASE EXTRACTION

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claims 3-7, 10, 13-14, 16-19, 25-27 and 29-30 as follows:

3. (Amended) Solid phase extraction process according to Claim 1, characterised in that the temperature of the cartridge is raised or lowered in step a), preferably by heating or cooling the liquid for conditioning of the sorbent.

4. (Amended) Solid phase extraction process according to Claim 1, characterised in that the temperature of the cartridge is raised or lowered in step b), preferably by heating or cooling the liquid which contains the sample.

5. (Amended) Solid phase extraction process according to Claim 1, characterised in that the temperature of the cartridge is raised or lowered in step c), preferably by heating or cooling the wash liquid.